



Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

— Making a positive difference through education and service —

TO: Special-Education Directors and District Test Coordinators
FROM: Walt Brown, Director, Assessment Section
DATE: December 1, 2004
SUBJECT: MAP Alternate Assessment Pilot Information

As you may know, we are currently working with Measured Progress, as well as the Assessment Resource Center (ARC), to revise the MAP Alternate (MAP-A). We are inviting special-education teachers to pilot the revised version of the MAP-A during the spring of 2005 to ensure that we receive input from the group that will ultimately use the assessment.

Teachers who pilot the revised version of the MAP-A will have the opportunity to offer recommendations to DESE prior to the final version becoming operational in the 2005-2006 school year. Thus, pilot-study teachers will facilitate the revision process and help the Department create an alternate assessment that yields reliable and valid information about student learning.

Here are specific details about the MAP-A pilot study.

- DESE is seeking up to 200 teachers; each teacher will pilot the MAP-A with one or two students.
- DESE is seeking 100 students per grade in grades 5, 7, 10 and 11.
- A one-day required training session will be offered at four locations throughout the state. The dates and locations are as follows.

Tuesday, February 22	St. Louis
Wednesday, February 23	Columbia
Thursday, February 24	Springfield
Friday, February 25	Kansas City

- We will reimburse mileage to teachers attending the training sessions. If your driving time to the training site is two hours or more, we will provide lodging for the evening before the training. We will also provide breakfast and lunch at the training.
- School districts will be reimbursed for the cost of the substitute teachers for the teachers attending the pilot training.
- Pilot teachers will be provided a MAP Alternate Examiner's Manual and the training required to administer the pilot version.

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- The implementation window for the pilot will be from March 1 to April 29, 2005. Teachers will be provided information on how and when to return portfolios to the Assessment Resource Center (ARC).
- Teachers will be asked to complete a survey related to the pilot process.

Please share this information with special-education teachers in your district who are currently working with students who qualify for the MAP Alternate in grades 5, 7, 10 and 11. I am enclosing the MAP-A Student Eligibility Worksheet to assist teachers in determining students who are eligible for the pilot assessment.

I am also enclosing a form that you may copy and give to teachers in your district. Teachers who are interested should fill out the form and return it to Becky Hinshaw at ARC by January 10, 2005. The ARC fax number is 573-882-8937. We will notify all teachers of their selection status for the MAP-A pilot study by the end of January.

If you have questions about the MAP-A pilot study, please contact the Assessment Section at 800-845-3545. Thank you for your assistance with this important effort.

Enclosures

MAP Alternate Pilot Reply Form

Please fax this form to Becky Hinshaw by January 10, 2005

Fax: (573) 882-8937

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle Initial _____

District _____ School _____ RPDC Region _____

School Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone Numbers (Work) _____ (Home) _____

E-mail Address (Please submit the e-mail address that you use most frequently.) _____

Professional background in special education and/or general education

Area of Teacher Certification _____

Number of Years of Teaching Experience _____

Indicate the number of students who will participate in the pilot and the grade level:

Student #1 Circle grade: 5 7 10 11

Student #2 (if applicable) Circle grade: 5 7 10 11

Involvement in the MAP Alternate Assessment (check all that apply)

I have participated in the current MAP Alternate Assessment Training.

I have participated on the MAP Alternate Advisory Council.

I have developed a current MAP Alternate Assessment.

I have contributed to a MAP Alternate Assessment.

I have scored the MAP Alternate Assessment.

Other- Please explain _____

I have not been involved yet. *Important Note: It is not necessary to have the experiences listed above to be selected to pilot the assessment.*

Training

Training will be provided at four locations in the state. Please indicate the location you would plan to attend if you are chosen for the pilot.

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday, February 22 | St. Louis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday, February 23 | Columbia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday, February 24 | Springfield |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friday, February 25 | Kansas City |